HEALTH
F.O.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT

(RIPARIAN AUTHORITY)

1970

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. M.S. Harvey, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Appointed 1.11.51 - Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Inspector - F.W.I. Whitehouse, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Appointed 14.1.46 - Chief Public Health Inspector

Address and Telephone Number of Medical Officer of Health:-

Office	-	15a Dane John, Canterbury.	Canterbury 64412
Home	-	"The Gables", Stodmarsh Road, Canterbury.	Canterbury 63391

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING 1970

Ships from	Number	Tonnage N.R.T.	Number Inspected		No. of ships reported as having had infectious disease on board during voyage
			By M.O.H.	By P.H.I.	
Foreign Ports	269	78,591	-	* 99	-
Coastwise	178	35,902	-	19	-
Total	447	144,493	-	118	-

* Includes Imported Food Regulations

CHARACTER OF SHIPPING

There was limited passenger traffic during the year, tourist to and from Esbjerg.

Cargo was concerned with:-

Imports: Cereals, Sand, Slag, Stone, Canned Milk, Dairy products, Offal, Poultry, Fruit, Vegetables and General Cargo.

Exports: Durite, Barley, Wheat, Tractors, various domestic commodities and general cargo.

Principal Ports from which ships arrive:-

London, Keadby, Guernsey, Dean Quarry, Maldon and Brightlingsea.

with foreign vessels from:-

Esbjerg, Antwerp, Gdansk, Bilbao, Ghent and Rotterdam.

There is no inland barge traffic.

WATER SUPPLY

The Harbour receives the town mains supply which is a good chalk water in the ownership of the Mid Kent Water Company, which is chlorinated before distribution.

The supply to shipping is from hydrants on the quay and hosepipes which are protected and have been found on inspection to be satisfactory.

Two samples taken for chemical and bacteriological examination were of a satisfactory nature.

The Authority has no water boats.

HYGIENE ARRANGEMENTS

Communal washing facilities have been provided, with hot and cold water for use by Harbour personnel and to meet the requirements of the hygiene regulations. Public conveniences and washing facilities are situated in the Harbour.

Public baths are available in the town and within a quarter of a mile of the Harbour.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

A list of infected areas is maintained by the Medical Officer of Health and is kept up to date by reference to the information supplied to him by the Department of Health. H.M. Customs are provided with information at the Harbour, Whitstable.

There is a local V.H.F. radio for sending permission to enter or for receiving advance notice from ships.

Notice of the arrival of ships from foreign ports is received from the Harbour Master and the Shipping Agent.

An arrangement is understood to be still applicable that any ship in which there is suspicion of infection or the presence of infectious disease shall anchor off Shellness, Isle of Sheppey, to allow clearance before entry. No record is available of such a direction having been issued under Regulations, but it has the standing of war-time practice for this district.

Cases of infectious disease go to Haine Isolation Hospital, Ramsgate.

Surveillance and follow up of contacts of cases of infectious disease would be carried out through Medical Officers of Health at destinations, and local surveillance is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health or his Deputy.

A chemical disinfector is situated within easy access of the Harbour. Disinfection on board ship would be done by gaseous disinfection followed by cleaning down. The nearest steam disinfector is at Eastry Hospital, near Sandwich.

SMALLPOX

Cases go to the Rivers Hospital, Long Reach, Dartford.

Such cases are transported by the Canterbury Joint Ambulance Service for whose vaccinal state the Medical Officer of Health, as M.O.H. of Canterbury, is responsible. The nearest smallpox consultant is:-

Dr. J.C. Blake, 38 Stanbourne Way, West Wickham, Kent.
Telephone No. 01-777-2975

The facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox are centred on the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9. Telephone No. 01-205-7041. Supplies of necessary equipment for collecting specimens are held at the Kent & Canterbury Hospital Laboratory and the Canterbury Health Department.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The nearest treatment centre is the Kent & Canterbury Hospital.

Males - Tuesday .. 3.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Females - Tuesday .. 2.0 p.m. to 3.0 p.m.

This information is available at the Council Offices and at the Harbour.

The nearest other clinics are at the Royal Seabathing Hospital, Margate, Friday, 11 a.m. - 12 noon (males) and 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. (females); and Rochester, 36 New Road, Males and Females Monday 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

No cases of notifiable or other infectious disease are known to have occurred in the port area during 1970. No cases of malaria were identified. No cases of plague were suspected or occurred.

RODENT CONTROL

The port is not approved for the purpose of granting deratisation or exemption certificates. Ships in the harbour and the harbour precincts are inspected for rats and the checking of certificates.

No rats were sent for pathological examination. The appropriate laboratory is the Public Health Laboratory Service, Preston Hall, Maidstone.

INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

Inspections and Notices

Nature and No. of Inspections	Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Public Health & Rodent Control 30	Nil	Nil	-

SHELLFISH LAYINGS

The collection of molluscs takes place on the Seasalter flats and the Whitstable oyster beds are in the sea off the Harbour. These collecting areas have never been identified as sources of danger to health. Nevertheless the authority has taken informal action to encourage cleansing before marketing of all oysters landed at Whitstable.

The cleansing plants of the two companies have received Department of Health approval for the cleansing of oysters and clams. An Investigation Committee has been set up jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the oyster company now using local layings, to assess the possibility of pollution risks from a long sea outfall proposal.

BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Bodies are accommodated in the public mortuary at Herne Bay. Subsequent burial can be supervised by the Public Health Inspector who, as Officer for the burial of the unclaimed dead, is in touch with the undertakers of such burial.